

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 1-7 and 12, 16, and 18-26, of which Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 16, and 21 are independent. Claims 13-15 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Claims 21-26 are newly added.

Each of independent claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Isozaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,110). Given the above amendments to each of the independent claims and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the independent claims is distinguishable over the applied art.

As now amended, each of the independent claims of the above-identified application, including new claim 21, incorporates the feature of the phase alignment of the stepping motor being a process for driving the stepping motor with a predetermined number of pulses to equalize the mechanical phase with an electrical phase of the stepping motor.

In addition, at least independent claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 16 further defines the storage means, and more particularly the restriction of consumption electrical power, as being restricted by changing a condition of a clock signal to control the recording apparatus.

Independent claims 12 and 21 now incorporate a second storage means which is capable of holding the image data at a state of power ON and not holding the image data at a state of power OFF, and those claims further define the recording apparatus as performing recording on the basis of image data inputted from outside the apparatus.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to the claims more clearly define the invention and distinguish over the art of record.

Isozaki illustrates an image forming apparatus and method using a stepping motor for feeding a recording paper, the stepping motor being driven based on a single line feed control patter. However, Isozaki does not disclose or suggest the process for driving the stepping motor with a predetermined number of pulses to equalize the mechanical phase with an electrical phase of the stepping motor as illustrated in Figure 10 of the present application and as now set forth in each of the independent claims of the above application.

Moreover, Isozaki features the stepping motor in which conveyance is suspended during driving and in that suspended state, the motor is not driven. CPU or memory is, however, isolated for the next operation. This is in contrast with the present claimed invention wherein the state of the clock signal is changed and data transfer by the storage means is stopped to reduce electrical energy consumption. Thus, the state in which the motor is suspended in Isozaki actually corresponds to the power ON state of the present invention and not the power OFF state. Accordingly, for these additional reasons the claimed subject matter neither teaches nor suggests the invention of Isozaki.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the independent claims in the above application is distinguishable over the applied art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to

the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree or find any issue remaining, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative below to schedule a personal interview in the above application.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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